

**DATE:** May 28, 2021

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**SUBJECT:** Friday Update

All,

Lots going on as we start to merge into summer.

- The City's overlay program begins this week with preparation for a variety of types of work throughout the City. Looks for disruption, phone calls and folks trying to figure things out.
- The streets along the Western States Endurance 100 (Brook, Marvin Way, Leubeck) are on the list for repairs. We have decided to move them on the schedule to later in the summer to avoid paving over the freshly painted footprints along the WS route. Look for these streets to get done sometime late in the summer when the contractor can come back for a couple days.
- On Wednesday, Auburn was in the bond market selling \$17.1m in Pension Obligation Bonds. Our total interest cost on the bonds averages 2.84% which is amazing. The interest rate charged the City by CalPERS is 7%, so we have shaved over 4% interest cost (60%) off our pension interest costs. A good deal for the City and a key to sustaining services and financial planning.
- Staff, our consulting engineers and Recology continue to work on the closed Auburn Landfill permitting. We are developing a proposal for revised conditions and ongoing monitoring to reduce certain required improvements. Stay tuned!
- Kudos to Andy Heath and the entire financing team for their work on the Pension Bond Project. The low interest rate and the overall positioning of the City for the future is an almost once in a career accomplishment for this deal. Well done!
- Check out the HUGE Western States Banner which is in front of City Hall. Thanks to the Endurance Capital Committee, Shannon Weil, photographer Larry Gassen and our entire Maintenance Staff lead by Matt Carducci for their work.



Finally, Memorial Day is the weekend where we honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the defense and provision of our freedom and liberties. It is recognition for the fallen soldiers and patriots.

At the City Council Meeting this week, a Downtown Street Tile was approved for Henry Starkey, a native of Auburn of Miwok and Maidu Descent. Starkey was the first local resident to be killed in action from Auburn. He was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his heroism. His tile will read that his “death brought the war home to Auburn” and his service is part of the “Warrior Tradition” among our Native Americans.

Paying tribute to our “patriots” is an important tradition which is often diluted within the context of the idea that it is a “holiday” and the overt commercialism which seems to permeate the weekend. The recognition of the sacrifice of the often young men and women who have given their lives in the name of the cause of freedom seems to be missed which is unfortunate.

Personally, I have made a practice of stopping at the local cemetery each Memorial Day on my morning run to pay my respects for the fallen buried there. A good friend who spoke at a memorial service once gave an overview of the coins which you will often find on the tombstones of soldiers. Here is something to look for the next time you are at the cemetery:

According to legend, the coin goes on the grave markers of America's military veterans. Leaving a coin on the headstone lets loved ones of the deceased soldier's family know that someone has come to visit the grave.

Each type of coin holds a different meaning. Leaving a penny means you visited and want to thank the veteran of the armed forces for their service. A nickel left at a grave means you trained at boot camp with the deceased servicemen, while a dime suggests you served with him or her. Finally, a quarter signifies if previous visitors were with the soldier when they passed away. It really is a practical way to show up and honor fallen comrades' gravesites, on Memorial Day or any other time of the year.



On Memorial Day, you will also see “Gold Star Flags” on display in front of peoples homes. These flags recognize those families with loved ones who were killed in war. “Blue Star Flags” represent family members currently serving in the military.

I encourage all to take a few moments to remember those who have served and given the ultimate sacrifice in the name of peace and freedom. We are blessed to live in the greatest country to ever exist and much of what we often take for granted has been given to us by those who have defended our principles throughout the world.

No Friday Update on June 4. My son is getting married next weekend and I will be assuming the role of Father of the Groom.

Thanks,

John